

HOUSE No. 1359

By Ms. Wolf of Cambridge, petition of Alice K. Wolf and others
for legislation to create the Charles River water quality commission.
Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Alice K. Wolf	Kevin G. Honan
Rachel Kaprielian	Jarrett T. Barrios
Kay Khan	Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Peter J. Koutoujian	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO CREATE A CHARLES RIVER WATER QUALITY COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the
2 contrary, a special commission, hereafter referred to as the
3 Charles River Water Quality Commission, is hereby established
4 for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to
5 the feasibility of bringing the water quality in the Charles River
6 lower basin to a level safe for swimming. The work of this com-
7 mission shall support the goals established in 1995 by the Clean
8 Charles River 2005 Environmental Protection Agency Initiative
9 and assist with the objectives of the swimmable Charles River
10 working group to improve water quality in the Charles River.

11 The Charles River Water Quality Commission shall study the
12 water quality of the lower Charles River basin including, but not
13 limited to:

14 (a) the collection of existing data concerning bacteria, viral,
15 turbidity, larity, sediment volume and quality, and all other water
16 quality and environmental parameters that may affect human
17 exposure to water from the Charles River;

18 (b) identification of additional data, various technologies, engi-
19 neering solutions, or environmental solutions necessary with cost
20 estimates to improve water quality and sediment impairments that
21 may impact human exposure to water from the Charles River, and
22 the creation of public swimming areas in the lower Charles River
23 on department of conservation and recreation property;

24 (c) sites for the development of public swimming areas along
25 the lower Charles River basin, taking into account current uses,
26 public transportation, and any environmental factors.

27 The Charles River Water Quality Commission shall be co-
28 chaired by the house and senate chairs of the Joint Committee on
29 Natural Resources and Agriculture, and consist of two (2) mem-
30 bers of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of
31 the house; two (2) members of the senate appointed by the senate
32 president; one (1) member appointed by the senate minority
33 leader; one (1) member appointed by the house minority leader;
34 one (1) representative of the Environmental Protection Agency
35 selected by the Governor from three (3) nominations recom-
36 mended by the Environmental Protection Agency; one (1) repre-
37 sentative from the Department of Conservation and Recreation
38 appointed by the Governor; one (1) representative from the Swim-
39 mable Charles River Working Group appointed by the Governor
40 from three (3) recommendations made by the Charles River Con-
41 servancy. In addition, one (1) employee of the Department of
42 Conservation and Recreation shall serve as part-time staff to said
43 commission. All members shall serve without compensation for
44 service on the commission. Said commission may consult individ-
45 uals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice,
46 support and other functions necessary and appropriate to accom-
47 plish the commission's objectives. Said commission shall submit
48 a report, including legislative recommendations, if any, to the
49 joint committee on natural resources and agriculture and the house
50 and senate committees on ways and means by December 15, 2005.
51 The special commission shall dissolve upon completion of its
52 duties and obligations, as indicated by submission of its findings
53 and recommendations.